

Remarks

Claims 1-19 were pending.

Claim 19 is canceled.

Claims 1, 7 and 18 are amended.

Claims 1-18 are now pending and are presented for reconsideration.

Claim 1 is amended to remove an unnecessary comma.

Claim 7 is amended to properly depend on claim 1 by stating that component c) may be an oligomeric hydrolysis product of the compound of the formula I instead of formula Ia.

Claim 18 is amended to properly depend on claim 1 and to be more clear.

No new matter is added.

Claims 1-18 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Agostini, EP 0941872.

Applicants respectfully rebut these rejections.

Note that in the thio substituted silanes of Agostini, that n = 2 to 8, lines 28-30 of page 3. The compounds of Agostini are primarily disulfides.

The present compounds of formula I and Ia are monosulfides, that is they do not contain consecutive sulfur atoms.

In view of this, Applicants submit that these rejections are addressed and are overcome.

Claim 19 is rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph and 35 USC 101.

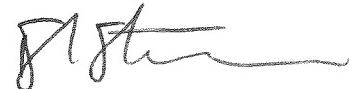
Claim 19 is canceled.

In view of the present amendments and the above remarks, Applicants submit that each of the claim rejections are addressed and are overcome.

The Examiner is kindly requested to reconsider and to withdraw the present rejections.

Applicants submit that the present claims are now in condition for allowance and respectfully request that they be found allowable.

Respectfully submitted,



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